



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION LEAPFROG
OZARK MAN SENTENCED FOR MULTI-KILO METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Ozark, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a large-scale methamphetamine conspiracy.

“Operation Leapfrog is a nationwide investigation that involves multi-pound shipments of methamphetamine into southwest Missouri,” Graves said. “This case focuses on the conspiracy to transport methamphetamine from Texas for distribution in Greene County, Mo.”

Toulavanh Phanithasack, 30, of Ozark, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 27, 2005, **Phanithasack** pleaded guilty to the charge contained in a May 4, 2005, superseding indictment. **Phanithasack** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between October 2003 and March 26, 2004, in Greene County, Mo. The amount of methamphetamine that he conspired to distribute, Graves said, was more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms.

Phanithasack is the fifth co-defendant to be sentenced among six co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

* **John Harris**, 32, of Branson, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 19, 2005, to five years and eight months in federal prison without parole. **Harris** pleaded guilty on Aug. 30, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy. The amount of methamphetamine that he conspired to distribute, Graves said, was more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms.

* **David Sonesourinhasack**, 22, of Cedar Hills, Mo., was sentenced on Aug. 26, 2005, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **Sonesourinhasack** also forfeited to

the government \$4,400, which constitutes proceeds from the distribution of methamphetamine. On Jan. 5, 2005, **Sonesourinhasack** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms, of methamphetamine.

* **Daryl Schoenfeldt**, 23, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced on June 14, 2005, to 14 years in federal prison without parole. **Schoenfeldt** pleaded guilty on Dec. 1, 2004, to his role in the conspiracy.

* **Eric Fujan**, 23, of Branson, was sentenced on July 29, 2005, to six years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Fujan** to forfeit to the government \$6,489, which constitutes proceeds from the distribution of methamphetamine. **Fujan** pleaded guilty on Aug. 12, 2004, to his role in the conspiracy.

* **Edward Gallegos**, 22, of Dallas, Texas, pleaded guilty on Nov. 21, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy and awaits sentencing.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMBAT (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Dallas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow